

Remarks

Claims 1-18, 20 and 21 were pending.

Claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 are amended.

Claims 3-5, 10 and 17 are original.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 11-14 and 22 are as previously presented.

Claims 2 and 16 are cancelled.

Claim 20 is withdrawn.

The application now contains claims 1, 3-15, 17, 18, 20 and 22.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations d1) and d2) from original claim 2. Claim 1 is also amended for clarity by inserting the word "metalized" into line 4 to be consistent with the phrase "an inorganic or organic metalized substrate" as found in lines 1-2; to clarify that in step b) a layer is formed and that it is the layer of step b that is irradiated in step c in order to fix the photoinitiators therein. Claim 1 is further amended to insert into step c) limitations defining the dose of irradiation, namely "from 1 to 1000 mJ /cm² of UV/Vis light having wavelengths from 150 to 700 nm". Support is found in the specification on page 27 lines 3-4 and 8-10, and page 37 line 12.

Claims 8 and 18 are amended to be dependent on claim 1 and claim 15 is amended to refer to the drying in step "b)". Support is found in instant claim 1.

No new matter is added.

IDS

The Examiner states that the information disclosure statement is not entered because there is no concise explanation of the relevance of one of the non-English references, H. Jacobasch et al, Farbe & Lack, 99, Jahrgang 7/1993, p 603-607 provided by the person most knowledgeable about the content of the reference. Attached is a summary of the relevance of said reference provided by G. Weidenbrueck, the person who drafted the application.

Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph for the presence of confusing language bridging steps b) and c). Applicants respectfully submit that the instant amendments overcome the rejections and kindly ask that they be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-12 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Bauer, US 6,548,121.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Bauer, US 6,548,121 above. Claims 2, 7, 8, 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Bauer, US 6,548,121 above in view of Kohler US 6,251,963 which teaches using a solvent with photoinitiators.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lundy, US 5,320,933 in view of Bauer, US 6,548,121 above; claims 2, 7, 8, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lundy, US 5,320,933 in view of Bauer, US 6,548,121 and Kohler US 6,251,963; Claim 22 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lundy, US 5,320,933 in view of Bauer, US 6,548,121 and Hirakawa, US 2002/0112882.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

In rejecting Applicants' previous arguments, the Action states on page 13, paragraphs 20-22, that instant claims as previously presented did not contain language specifying certain features of the invention which formed the basis of said arguments. Applicants respectfully submit that the instant amendments to claim 1 clearly define the mandatory irradiation step c) and include specific dose requirements that make it clear to anyone that exposing the substrate to ambient light to examine the substrate would not meet the limitations.

Applicants respectfully aver that the instantly amended claims specifically require a specific irradiation of the layer formed in step b) and the only optional step is the drying of the layer b) when solvent is present. Applicants respectfully but strenuously aver that there is nothing in the instant claims that suggests that the irradiation of step c) is optional.

According to the instant invention, a primer layer is prepared by pretreating the surface with corona discharge etc, followed by applying photo initiators or a mixture containing photo initiators and monomers or oligomers containing ethylenically unsaturated groups and then this layer is irradiated with a specified dose of light. This layer is then further coated or printed on in either step d1) or d2).

In Bauer, a substrate is pre-treated with plasma, corona or a flame treatment prior to the application of photo initiator compounds containing ethylenically unsaturated groups which are then allowed to react with the pretreated surface to form a primer layer onto which is deposited a metal, semi-metal or metal oxide from the gas phase in the presence of UV-light.

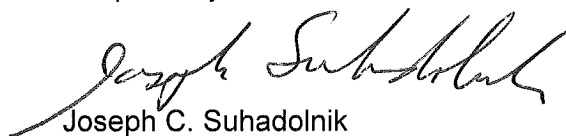
Applicants respectfully submit that the processing steps of the instantly amended claims, in particular the radiative curing of the primer layer before step d), are different from those of Bauer, as Bauer does not include or suggest instant step c) where the layer of step b) is irradiated to fix the photoinitiators. Further, Applicants respectfully note that instant step c) is not taught in any of the cited art. Applicants therefore submit that the art does not meet the limitations of the instant claims or direct one to the steps of the instant invention.

As the cited art fails to suggest the instant step wherein the primer layer is cured by irradiation before the application of a coating, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections of claims 1, 3-15, 17, 18 and 22 under either 35 USC 102(b) or 35 USC 103(a) are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn and claims 1, 3-15, 17, 18 and 22 be found allowable. Applicants also kindly ask that upon finding said claims allowable, the Examiner rejoin claim 20 as a novel product produced by the novel process of claim 1 and find claim 20 also allowable.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosed: Summary of the relevance of H. Jacobasch et al, Farbe & Lack, 99, Jahrgang 7/1993, p 603-607 provided by G. Weidenbrueck.